

To the Commission –

The profound impact made by thousands of amateur radio operators in the immediate aftermath of our nations bout with hurricanes, should serve to underscore the validity of maintaining the code requirements for licensure. One simply has to listen to the character of operators existing on the unregulated citizen bands radio frequencies to immediately understand that this type of behavior could not support the quality of communications required during natural disasters. Everyday, thousands of “professional” amateur radio operators apply personal time and talent in studying and preparing themselves for the art of radio, ensuring their ability to serve when called. My fear is the Morse code talent will be lost, effectively placing one more method of communication into the history books, when it too has been proven to be the only communication useful in certain unique conditions.

Removing the Morse Code requirements for licensing will almost certainly lead to the demise of high quality operators serving our emergency communications needs “when all else fails”.

Respectfully,

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